Forced Migration and Security Implications for Host Country: A Study of Afghan Refugees in Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to understand forced migration which may lead to security implications for the host country. This study utilized the theory of Forced migration with the nexus of securitization, which causes the mass movement of people across the world borders, in the South Asian region. In order to authenticate the theory in South Asian region, situation of Afghan Refugees in Pakistan has been analyzed to understand that to what extent and how do Afghan Refugees have been forced and cause security implications for Pakistan, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province as well as what are other dimensions of these implications. Security concerns regarding refugees have been increased after the attack which has made researchers emphasize the impact of security concerns on the establishment of migration policy. The events of September 2011 did not initiate the insecurities, uncertainties, ambiguities, and complexities in regards to migration policy; rather they accelerated dynamics that were already deeply rooted in the Pakistan internal security regime. To analyze the current migration policy, migration patterns, and security threats, direct interviews have been conducted (specify the number of respondents) along with participatory observations. Triangulation is a validating strategy that is used in this research. Triangulation aided to add validity and confidence in order to draw and justify the conclusion of this study more than one source required for confirmation. Further, analysis of the responses and evidence from other sources suggest that Afghan refugees are not responsible for deteriorating the security situation in Pakistan as well as they don’t posit a security threat to the Country. However, there are some other extremist elements which have entered in Pakistan’s territory causing security threats and have been using Afghan refugees as play card which need to be highlighted in future studies. There is no strong verification of Afghan migrants’ association in such deplorable wrongdoings. Thus, security turns into an issue of guarding the trustworthiness of the state's regional space against perilous outside others.

Keywords: Forced migration, Afghan refugees, Security implications, Socio-economic Implications, Security studies

Introduction

The influx of refugees has been an outstanding issue in international relations which has a direct impact on politics, economics, and security. There is a resurgence in refugee crisis due to ongoing politically motivated military conflicts in most parts of the world. Globalization has given birth to ‘age of migration’ which in turn has brought to limelight the aspects of human security related to refugee issue (Kegley, 2001). All over the globe, the issue of refugees and migration has become not only pervasive but also politically controversial. Numerous noteworthy reasons for mass migration include; civil wars in a volatile region, political conflicts (including ethnic imbalance) and poverty. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the number of
refugees has increased from 10 million in 2006 to 42 million in 2009 (UNHCR, 2009a). Recent wars in Afghanistan, Iran, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Sudan, among others, have prompted the movement of extensive population into neighboring states. In most exile circumstances, the potential for the struggle to overflow into neighboring nations is high, especially in underdeveloped regions of the world. A wide group of research has contended that refugee movements can worsen strife by inciting dangers both inside and between states (Salehyan, 2008; Crips, 2000; Lischer, 2003; Martin, 2005; Salehyan & Gleditsch, 2006; Weiner, 1992-1993). At the point when this happens, states turn out to be less secure and territorial insecurity is expanded. Militant organizations, who regularly take asylum in refugee camps, misuse the continuous wilderness inside the camps by inciting a message of reason and having a place among the individuals who join the rebels (Salehyan; 2008:791). Refugee camps provide sanctuary to the Militant organizations and these organizations regularly utilize outcast population as a base of support to conduct the attack. This makes gigantic trouble for military and security powers who endeavor to deny these gatherings an asylum. Nonetheless, refugees in the most recent couple of decades have been seen as "dangerous foreigners" hoping to settle in a remote country state (Schutz, 2003). To alleviate a significant number of these issues; states must encourage a domain that isolates the outcasts from the potential wellsprings of violence.

The Afghan refugee issue in Pakistan is no exemption. Pakistan has constantly demonstrated both genuinely liberal and undecided tendencies in its relations with Afghan refugees. As indicated by the United Countries High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), around 1.9 million enrolled displaced people were available in Pakistan in January 2011, most by far of whom were from Afghanistan (UNHCR, 2011). Also, since the principal half of 2009, Pakistan has needed to confront the extra weight of about 2 million internally displaced people (IDPs), because of the military operations in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (in the past North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA)). This weight would be viewed as insufferable in numerous created nations. Afghans began escaping their country soon after the Soviets invaded Afghanistan.

Since 9/11, the condition of Pakistan is most worried about security circumstance. KP is the most focused on and the helpless area where the contiguous tribal belt is thought to be a potential safe house for psychological militant exercises. It is too specified that terrorist activities have expanded as of late when contrasted with 2006 and 2007 (Khattak, et al., 2014) Pakistan's authentic articulations uncover that psychological militant attacks are for the most part arranged in Afghanistan with the nearby individuals as supporters. The incident of 9/11 and afterward the Mujahedeen that We, U.S.A and other different nations mutually made were tossed out (from Afghanistan) into our tribal regions and afterward began a flood of suicide assaults and the war against terrorism killed more than 7000 Pakistanis,” said Aziz (Dawn 21 June 2016).

Afghan refugees (AR) lives in dread after the Army Public School (APS) occurrence where 144 school kids from age 6 to 18 years were slaughtered by the militants on sixteenth December 2014, the latest assault on Bacha Khan University where 20 understudies including one teacher was shot dead (CraigTim, Washington Post, 21, J Jan 2016). Evidence on these incidents shows the involvement of Afghan soil. In this way, with the increment terrorist activities, AR
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in Pakistan turned out to be more defenseless than some time recently. The foe is not known largely while some questionable cases lead towards misguided judgments amongst AR and nearby individuals. Nevertheless, there is no strong verification of Afghan migrants' association in such deplorable wrongdoings. "Thus security turns into an issue of guarding the trustworthiness of state's regional space against perilous outside others" (Agnew referred to in Tete, 2011). It must be noticed that there is seen thought with respect to Pakistan's security agencies including nationals that AR and their camps are obviously connected to criminal activities

**Cut Off Period (1979-2016)**

The cut off period of the subject to this study is 1979-2016. The significance of this period is that

1- Soviet invasion in Afghanistan and Afghan people were forced to migrate towards Pakistan that brought Kalashnikov culture into Pakistan Society

2- Taliban are created by Pakistan, the US and other forces ultimately turned into sole authority, imposing Sharia law in Afghanistan which was not in favor of moderate Afghan Muslims cease the Repartition process

3- September 11 attack on the US, initiate the war on terror, which cause the regional instability and Pakistan become the front line state against the war on terror, causing more afghan enter into Pakistan territory along with terrorist elements.

**Research Questions**

The focal research issue to be tended to in this study lives in the taking after question; in particular: to what degree and how do Afghan Refugees have security implications for Pakistan especially in KyberPakhtukhawan Province, and what are other dimensions of these implications?

**Theoretical Framework**

This postulation deliberately found and upheld by different speculations: Alexander Betts theory of forced migration and global politics and concept of Security by BarryBuzan. Copenhagen School rose at the contention and peace look into the establishment (COPRI) of Copenhagen and spoke to by the compositions of Barry Buzan, Ole Weaver, Jaap de Wilde, and others. It is incompletely about enlarging the threat and referent objects, particularly societal/identity, somewhat about considering the regional level, yet for the most part about focusing on securitization—the social procedures by which gatherings of individuals build something as a threat thus offering a constructivist counterpoint to the realist risk investigation of traditional strategic studies. Forced Migration offers a moderately strange exact landscape inside which IR theory can test and build up its center ideas, while IR theory can add to disclosing why states react to forced migration as they do, while additionally revealing insight into a part of the causes and results of forced migration (Betts 2009).

The Copenhagen School has built up its way to deal with security in various writings, most eminently in Security: A New Framework for Analysis (Buzen et
In this volume, Buzan, weaver and de Wilde begin by characterizing international security in a conventional military setting. "Security" as indicated by them, “is about survival. It is the point at which an issue is displayed as representing an existential danger to an assigned referent object (traditionally, however not really, the state, government, territory, and society)” (Buzen et al, 1998). With this point of view, the Copenhagen School distinguishes five general classes of security: military security and in addition to environmental, economic, societal and political security. The Security survival rationale is in this way kept up and stretched out past military security to four different classes.

**Concept of Migration**

Migration as a social wonder in the historical backdrop of international relations has shaped the essential example of human development and settlement in various parts of the world. The idea, named as the development of individuals from one place to another, brought on by the political, social and monetary condition, can be classified for the most part as a lasting, constrained, deliberate or transitory movement. With the onset of globalization, Migration has turned into a universal concern obliging nations to meet up and legislate policies of migration that may straightforwardly or in a roundabout way affect their region and individuals. A subset of law ponders has likewise developed incorporating a different international migration law focusing on intercontinental and interstate migration, including the comprehension of outcasts.

Ernest Ravenstein is known as the earliest Migration scholar, an English geographer who characterized migration from the pull and push factors, his push calculate I esteem exceptionally vital in comprehension-constrained migration (Ravenstein, 1885). Human migration has a long history, however, it is just in the twentieth century the issue move towards becoming politicized and internationalized (Kushner and Knox, 1999). Progressively, around the globe, people have been forced to leave their country as a result of political persecution, war, conflict, natural and man-made disasters. The two major world wars, liberation wars form the colonialism, proxy wars in the Cold War era and its aftermath as a result of internal conflicts in Africa, Balkans, and the Caucasus, invasion in Afghanistan and Iran under the cover of “War on Terror,” South Asia and Middle East crisis in the name of nationalism, human rights violation, natural disaster in the form of hurricanes, tsunamis, and climate change all contributed in the displacement of people and forced them to flee their homes in search of protection (Betts, 2009).

Defined by Jay Weinstein and Vijayan Pillai (2001) forced immigration is the process in which an individual is forced against their will to move to a new place, relocate their physical assists or financial resources. Here against their will also include the scenario of slavery as well as natural disasters and civil wars. External forces cause the move. The international and national migration is different scenarios as they occur due to different reasons. The relationship between forced migration and global politics can be understood under the three different level: causes of forced migration, what are consequences of forced migration and lastly responses to the forced migration. These causes can be political, during the Cold War era proxy wars due to the rivalry between the two superpowers cause the major displacement of the people in, for example, the Southern Africa, Horn of
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Africa, Central America, Indo-China, and. Today, US involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan in the name of ‘War on Terror’ indirectly contributes to the large chunk of human displacement (Betts, 2009).

Forced Migration and the Security Implications of Refugees on Host Nations

Penz (1997:37) considered forced migration as evil. Existing IR work related to the causes and consequences of forced migration draws vigorously on literature present on global security (Snyder 2010; Roberts 2010), highlighting specifically that refugee is not only a cause of conflict and insecurity but also contribute as an active participant of conflict and security, specifically since the end of the cold war. developing work from IR researchers looks at the empirical connection between refugee movements and conflicts and tries to distinguish the conditions under which refugees cause conflicting situation (Loescher 1992, 1993; Weiner 1993, 1995; Stedman and Tanner 2003; Lischer 2005; Salehyan and Gleditsch 2006).

The world is constantly changing due to many factors including technologies, economic environment and how international business are interlinked. Though it seems the progress of the world is well underway, the world is also facing the worst refugee crisis since World War II (Sengupta, 2015). Due to violence, war, turmoil’s over 60 million people have left their homes in hopes of better a safe future(Graham,2015).

Definition of National Security:

"Means to build the international and domestic conditions suited to preserve and promote national welfare, values, and interests and to protect them from threats of all sorts, actual or potential” (Ozaki, 1985, p. 8).

The endeavors of a few researchers to re-characterize national security dangers and security by and large from a Third World point of view has been recognized and invited. This point of view is essential when seen against the scenery of the way that the displaced person emergency is generally a Third World issue. Ayoob (1995:6) personalities three elements which have particularly added to recognizing Third World national security from that of the First World, to be specific that "the low level of social union and of state and administration authenticity is the underlying driver of residential instability in the Third World states" (Ayoob, 1995:190). The attributes of Third World national security issues indicate the household starting points of instability, as opposed to outer (military) dangers (Job, 19992:17-18).

A) Positive economic impacts of Refugees on the Host Countries

In some cases, refugees do bring advantages to the countries where they relocate. The literature reflects on some of the factors that are discussed as advantages due to the immigration

The movement of the refugees sometimes brings resources as well. For instance, the movement of people from, Rwanda, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan, the in the late 1990s and early 2000s, in Uganda create
opportunities for the schools to be built of the immigrating children that benefit the local children as well. These local children otherwise had no opportunity or motivation to go to school (Dryden-Peterson and Hovil, 2003).

Apart from the educational sector, refugees attract other investors and helping groups to invest in the health sector, infrastructure developments, housing developments, and facilitate transportation. These means of communication and development, leading to overall development not only to refugee sphere but also for the local community by providing them with working opportunities (UNHCR Baseline Survey 2003; Zetter, 2012). The development of the health sector, educational institutions, and other development projects can overcome the refugee crisis, hence in contrast to the short term refugee’s problems can provide the host country with long terms investment and the established system in each sector. Another example of the refugees leading to new business development is from Pakistan that has been hosting refugees from Afghanistan after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979. According to the records Pakistan is hosting more than 1.5 million refugees from Afghanistan which is one of the largest numbers of refugees sustaining in the country around the world (“2015 UNHCR Pakistan profile”). These refugees have developed the new businesses and taken over much of the transportation business in the country and across borders from entrepreneurship and production capacity purely for the past 35 years (Zetter, 2012).

B) Negative economic impacts of Refugees on the Host Countries

There are some of the negative factors due to the refugee’s impact in the host country, the negative economic crisis is discussed here linked with different mechanism can drain the host country of its resources and even cause a social and political crisis.

The overcrowding also effects the environment as the footprint effect increases the refugee’s areas, as the UN report suggests are more prone to become “deforestation, soil erosion, pollution, and depletion of water resources” (“Refugees and the Environment” 2001). The refugee’s movement often leads to the local small level conflicts even when the refugees and the host country have many similar cultures and ethnic backgrounds (example of Sweden refugee’s conflicts). The resentments and the identities crisis, as well as identities that are bound to the tribal groups, lead to issues and conflicts. For instance, the Afghan refugees have been subject to police brutality and conflicts in the local host towns and cities where they have moved- Peshawar- a city close to the border that does not only share the language with refugees but also many cultural values. Similarly, the refugees from Afghanistan have been targeted for being the reason for terrorism as well as blamed for the discord in the country that leads to general resentments in the country towards the refugee groups from Afghanistan. Most prominently, the incident of terrorism that caused 130 schoolchildren to lose their lives in the local high school has been used as an excuse to backlash the Afghan refugees (Abid, 2015; Saifi and Botehlo, 2014).

Research Specific to Afghan Refugees in Pakistan

Over the last thirty years, refugees from Afghanistan have been pouring into the Pakistani border following the Soviet Union’s invasion of Afghanistan in 1979. About three million refugees have sought to move to Pakistan in the past thirty
years, which is the largest number while some of the refugees have never moved back. The majority of refugees from Afghanistan have been settled in the in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan provinces while the rest are scattered in the rest of the country. In the last 1980s before the withdrawal of the Soviet troops, there were more than 6 million Afghan refugees within the Pakistani borders. Though the thirty years have calmed the environment, the internal conflicts and the new government sanctioning the operations by the multi-national force under NATO have been causing conflict-induced displacement (Ruiz & Emery; September 24: 2001). The Government of Pakistan (Gop) started emphatically pushing that conditions were proper for the arrival of all Afghans to Afghanistan (Ibrahim: 2013). The GOP seems to have both financial and security worries about the Afghan population in Pakistan. On the financial level, a few Pakistani government officials trust that Afghans are taking occupations that may something else. Notwithstanding their monetary effect, a few Pakistani pioneers are worried that Afghans speak to a security chance for Pakistan.

Methodology

The study will be based on interviews, participatory observation, and reports analysis set in the interpretive paradigm with a brief historical overview of the refugee situation in Pakistan up to 1978. Interpretive qualitative methods explore the individual’s point of view about the problem (Careswell, 1998). The descriptive study describes the situations, activities, perspectives and focuses on behavior and attitudes. It can provide detailed and explicit idea about things. This study also provides a perception that how things have changed with the passage of time (Adler & Clark, 2006). In an analytical study, the researcher uses already available facts and analyzes the material to make a critical assessment of data. (Kothari & Garg, 2014). This study will be descriptive and analytical and set in the interpretive paradigm. The characteristics of interpretivism are suitable for this study because this study understands the world of the participants through their belief and experiences. It prefers qualitative method for data collection Specific attention is given to national security in developing countries, in view of the Pakistan and security implication due to the presence of Afghan refugees. KyberPakhtunKhawan (KPK) has been focused on the study as compared to other provinces of Pakistan, as the largest concentration of refugees present in KPK. In this chapter, the researcher considered qualitative research the most relevant method to use to gather data that would provide the deepest insight into refugees impact on Pakistan economy, society, and national security. To achieve qualitative information from the key informant (Government officials, security personals, the general public, personal observation, speeches, and reports) are involved. For the primary source of data collection and to triangulate, this study will also incorporate the method of reports, commentaries, and speeches of Political Elites. Data is collected through reports documents related to Afghan refugees and National Security of Pakistan. It also includes the speeches of the political elites of Pakistan related to security implications of Afghan refugees on Pakistan. The chief source of reports related to Afghan Refugees is formed Afghan Commissionerate in Islamabad and UNHCR reports towards Afghan Refugees. The study will use polices documents related to the Afghan refugees' policies and security policies of Pakistan in relation to Pakistan’s national security.
Thematic analysis (TA) will be employed to analyze the data in this study. It recognizes, analyzes arrange and describes the themes within the data. It organizes minimally and describes data in detail. It interprets different aspects of the research topic. Researcher’s needs to identify the exact theme because the theme is the basic step and starting point to get an analysis, which develops the relationship between different themes. Themes capture important data relating to the research questions (Willig, 2013)

Refugee and the Changing International Political World

Forced migration and refugee problem have become global in nature as it not only affecting the millions of people around the world but also the policies and practices of every host state in the world. As the world is facing the major refugee crisis around the globe, the perceptions of the refugee crisis have changed because of the increase in their numbers.

At the time of World War-I forced movement were more often associated with war-torn socialist Europe, to other European countries, or to the major immigration countries of Australia, Canada, United States of America and Israel. Forced migration phenomena started in the Third World countries throughout the twentieth century followed by the partition of sub-continent into India and Pakistan in 1947 and the Palestinian crisis in 1948 after the creation of Israel on the world map. In 1995, only three million refugees were hosted in Western Europe, Canada and the United States of America out of total 14.4 million refugees (recognized by the UNHCR under the 1951 convention)(Hejrat,1991:2). Rest of the refugees was forced to move in the poor countries categorized as the Third World States.

Discussion

The Soviet invasion in Afghanistan in 1979 produced crisis not only on Afghan territory but also expand to the neighboring countries of the region. Pakistan being a neighbor which share a long border, permeable frontier, ethnic ties and religious affection with Afghanistan took the more burden of this crisis and felt more vulnerable to a perceived threat of Soviet Expansionism’(Saikal& Maley,1989).

Different themes have emerged during data analysis regarding the security implications of Afghan refugees on Pakistan. These themes have been identified on the basis of different perception about this issue. The themes, which have been emerged on the basis of different perceptions, will be discussed later in the next chapter of research findings

a) Afghan refugees are not solely responsible for the security implications for Pakistan
b) Zia era policies had a great impact on Pakistan security mismanagement
c) Afghans refugee case was actually a case of mishandling or negligence
d) No proper policies were made for the Afghan refugee's settlement
e) Afghan refugees were treated in a legal vacuum
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f) Porous nature of Pak-Afghan border pave way for the extremist elements

g) There are flaws in Pakistan National Security policies

It becomes rather difficult for the officials on the Pakistani side to determine who are the legitimate Afghan refugees and who amongst them are the militant elements bearing intent to cause unrest in Pakistan. This situation worsens due to the porous nature of the Pakistan Afghanistan border as the people coming in and out of Pakistan seldom get noticed and checked. It has been reported repeatedly that numerous terrorist attacks occurred in Pakistan with the militants coming in with a disguise of refugees with the security forces failing to recognize them.

Pakistan facing the securities issues since the inception of Afghan refugees enter into the Pakistan territory. After the Soviet invasion and Pakistan support for the Afghan Mujahedeen sworn the seeds of militancy in Pakistan which causes serious security implications for Pakistan as well as for the individual security. Introduction of Kalashnikov culture in Pakistan society, especially in KPK, was the result of the unchecked entrance of refugee into Pakistan territory. The extent of refugee flows, and the presence of refugees in Pakistan have an impact on the country not only from the security side but also a political, economic, social and environmental perspective. It includes violent conflict in parts of Pakistan which posed, and may again, pose a threat to the country’s security. Some refugees have been associated with criminal activities in their effort at survival, but it is not wrong to say that on the observation bases that refugees were not responsible for security issues in Pakistan but militant elements enter into Pakistan soil by using refugees placard.

Research Findings, Conclusion and Recommendations

Findings: In the light of the theoretical framework the empirical findings are discussed and analyzed. The analysis of this research is divided into two main parts. The first part deals with the socio-economic impacts on Pakistan and second deals with the security implications due to the presence of Afghan refugees.

Impacts of Afghan Refugee on Pakistan

Several impacts have been experienced by Pakistan after the refugee influx. Some of these impacts have been more significant and more reported than others. There are multiple impacts of refugees on Pakistan especially in KPK but more significant and discussed in this research are economic, social, cultural, political and security issues.

Economic impacts

In the beginning, there was no friction between the locals and Afghan refugees but the longer stay of Afghan refugees in Pakistan start creating concerns of the local population towards them as they indirectly or directly tempered the Pakistan economic structure especially in KPK. There are mixed emotions for the Afghan refugees in Pakistan, as some of them are in favor and has positive views about them by saying that they are a major contributor to the Pakistan economy by investing their money in a business in KPK and providing services to Pakistan in shape of doctors, teachers, laborers, etc. While one group is not in their favor and his opinion that they must go back to their country now as they had spent enough
time in Pakistan and causing the economic burden to Pakistan. In a nutshell, while the community level interactions may be believed to have been rather positive over the decades between Pakistani and Afghan refugees community. It is a fact that the overall situation of the economy and the society at large has largely deteriorated. In the early times of the migration when the Afghan refugees had just started to come in, the attitude of the Pakistani public was rather welcoming. However, with the passage of time, this has worn out as the resources are just not enough for everyone.

**Social Impact**

This is further supplemented by no difference in the culture of Pakistan and Afghanistan where 99 percent of the respondents replied that there is no difference because of the same lifestyle, traditions, and society.

Societal security is to deal with ethno-national identities. Social security is referred to the sustainable development, preservation of the traditions, language, cultural, religion and national identities (Buzan;1991a:122-3). In the cases of mass migration, the host country is changed by the number of these outsiders; by a shift in the composition of the population (Buzan et al. 1998:21). Though due to the presence of Afghan refugees in Pakistan there was no major change has been observing in culture or in social identities. However, it changed the ethnic balance in Baluchistan Province that causes the ethnic conflict in Baluchistan.

**Security Implications**

The policies made for the Afghan refugees were ambiguous which cause the security implications for Pakistan. Pakistan is not the signatory of the 1951 UN convention for the refugees nor it did sign the protocol 1961 in Geneva convention but treated the Afghan refugees in the legal vacuum. The decision of Zia government to play proxy war for the U.S. created complications for Pakistan because it was Pakistan territory that was used to create Mujahedeen. This act of Zia was responsible to create security implications for Pakistan and Kalashnikov culture became part of Pakistan society. After the 9/11 and Pakistan being front line ally of U.S. decided to fight for the U.S. and against the Taliban which she supported in the 1990s. the event of 9/11 is also responsible for the mass movement of Afghan refugees into Pakistan. The porous nature of the Pak-Afghan border and refugee influx open the way for the militant element to enter into the Pakistan territory. Pakistan being a weak state was unable to stop these external elements for entering into Pakistan soil. The combination of state weakness and internal threats creates a security challenge unique to the weak state. After the Afghan refugee's arrival in Pakistan, the security situation gets worse. They are not directly involved in the terrorist activities but militant elements enter into Pakistan territory by using Afghan refugees as play card. There are flaws in Pakistan policies for the Afghan refugees and no proper implementation. The incident of APS raise the security concerns for the Pakistan nationals, which not only targeted militants but also the Afghan refugees. Though these policies are made to counterterrorism and regulate the flow of refugees the government has failed to implement these policies effectively. There are millions of unregistered Afghan refugees living in Pakistan especially in KPK, Baluchistan, others are scattered in Islamabad, Lahore, and Karachi.
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Conclusion

Afghan refugees’ presence has become a major concern for Pakistan especially after the security issues have been emerging on the Pakistan territory. Their longer stays in Pakistan gradually generating resentment in the local population. Many elements in Pakistan believe that Afghan refugees will never go back, even if the political situation in Afghanistan improves.

The recycling of refugees is difficult to stop and detect, given the porous border between the two countries. The presence of Afghan refugees creates security implications for Pakistan as the militant elements enter in the Pakistan territory in the form of refugees. After the 9/11 Pakistan support on war against terrorism creates serious repercussion for Pakistan. Pakistan as an ally of U.S. demanded active and immediate support of Pakistan in complete end to support for the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. The continuous pressure of US on Pakistan government to declare itself weather friend or foe to the US --- it was not surprising that General Musharaf declares Pakistan an ally of America and came out in firm support of the US position. The situation of refugees grew even worse when the United States started to carry out air strikes on Afghanistan. These strikes did not demarcate between the innocent people and the militants this causing a significant amount of collateral damage. This resulted in a large number of people trying to flee the war-infested region into Pakistan. The numbers continued to grow significantly. When the airstrikes in Afghanistan started to take place, Afghan people started to flee to the neighboring counties. When the movement first started, Pakistan had closed the border and observed serious closure of the passes. Pakistan provided the US with its territory and use of several military air base near to Afghan border. The relation between Pakistan and Afghanistan become get worse. The Afghan refugees have an ever increasing number of concerns over their status and future in Pakistan. The terrorist incidents in Pakistan particularly the Army Public School incident that kills more than 150 children in Peshawar and the Bacha Khan incident that killed more than 20 students have further threatened the future of refugees in Pakistan. Policies for national security were formulated where Afghan refugees were targeted and forced to leave the country on immediate bases. Though Afghan were treated in a legal vacuum and there is no comprehensive proof against them which held them responsible for the security implication for Pakistan. Many extremist elements took advantage of the situation of 9/11 and enter into Pakistan territory under the refugee cover but Afghan refugees are not responsible for the deteriorating security situation in Pakistan.

Recommendations

- Better economic opportunities (job/ income sources) in Afghanistan will attract refugees. The international community and regional actors work for the development in Afghanistan which create economic opportunities for refugees

- Availability of social services and facilities like health, education, electricity, water and basic necessities in Afghanistan when get ensured, it will encourage the repatriation of Afghan refugees.
Diplomacy: Pakistan needs to play the rules of diplomacy in a dignified manner. As Pakistan in KPK and Afghanistan share the same culture this must use as a trump card for the better relationship between Pakistan Afghanistan through a student exchange program and other activities, Therefore, Pakistan needs to play the role in the region effectively.

Reforms in FATA: It is high time to bring positive developments in FATA. Like other citizens of Pakistan, People of FATA need to be protected under the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. If the sense of belongingness remain missing among the FATA people and they feel disgruntled and their honor is not redeemed then no matter what effective measures State adopted to establish peace in FATA would not generate any positive results.

Concreted Efforts are required to eradicate militancy from FATA and KP unless the military and civil government is on the same page. With concerted efforts of the concerned quarters like removing the distinction between good and bad Taliban, the deteriorating situation of the country could only then be improved.

If the regions have to be freed from the tyranny of these militants, this is very essential to break the nexus between TTP and Al-Qaeda and now Islamic State (IS). By cutting financial assistance through intelligence sharing and joint ventures, these militant elements could be dismantled and defeated. Delaying of taking controlling action against these groups will only lead to their expansion, growth, and unity which will turn the world a gruesome place to live in.

More effective Border mechanism is required for the proper management of refugee flow across the border. The porous nature of the Pak-Afghan border is one of the main security concerns for both countries as the militants exchange the weapons and drug dealing through this border area.

Based on the policies of Pakistan since 2001 and the current donor fatigue, it is possible to predict the future scenario for Afghan refugees in Pakistan. In the coming years, the “push factors” for them are likely to increase, leading to forced repatriation. Afghans will probably face even more pressures from the host country after the expiry of the Tripartite Agreement as many have shown their reservations to return. The closure of camps, the Pak-Afghan border, and educational institutions is an indicator of the official mindset.

More effective policies are needed to deal with the refugee issue in Pakistan just like the Canadian government took notice of refugees and made policies on them to protect humans and for national security.
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